Encyclopaedia Aristasiana

Find in Entire Site Go

Backlinks...

Menu

Home
Search
List pages
Last Changes

Image Galleries

Main Sections

Aristasian Glossary
Aristasian Life and Culture
Aristasia Pura
Aristasia in Telluria
Philosophy and Religion
Sound and Kinematics
Telluria Criticism

Random Pages

Science
Rationalism
Post-Bridgehead Telluria
Criticism
Novaria
Social Constructionism
"Sex", "Relationships", Amity and Marriage
Raihir
Animal Thesis
The Way of the Sword

Search

in:
Entire Site Go

Login

Login as...
User:
Password:
Login

Standard | Secure

Operation Bridgehead

Operation Bridgehead was initiated in November 2005 (Werde 3325). It has been the largest turning-point in the history of Aristasia-in-Telluria since its foundation. It is not uncommon to speak of "pre-Bridgehead" or "post-Bridgehead" Aristasia-in-Telluria. Operation Bridgehead has also been somewhat controversial among non-Aristasians, since it postulates the real existence of The Motherland. Some have taken this to be a kind of "myth" or rarefied intellectual/imaginal concept, though Aristasians insist that The Motherland is, at the least, representative of an aethyric influence guiding and governing Aristasia-in-Telluria. The term "Aethyr" (meaning literally the fifth Element), which can imply either "cosmic space" or a plane of psychic reality, is perhaps indicative of the complexity of the concept.

The Nature of the Operation

Operation Bridgehead was launched not by Aristasia-in-Telluria itself but by The Motherland, and specifically by the Royal Novarian Aethyr Command. The precise nature and purpose of this operation has not been divulged, but it is supposed to be a "Bridgehead" launched by The Motherland into one of the most hostile and masculinised areas of the omniverse - late patriarchal Telluria. It has been postulated that this is part of a greater spiritual war in which the forces of light and those of darkness confront each other.

The Details of the Operation concerning Aristasia-in-Telluria

With the application of the Operation to Aristasia-in-Telluria, we come into less conjectural territory. The primary features of the operation are these:

* Aristasia-in-Telluria, formerly a self-governing group of Tellurian women owing a theoretical allegiance to The Motherland, has been adopted as a Protectorate by the Celestial Empire itself, through its agency the Royal Novarian Aethyr Command. In other words, Aristasia-in-Telluria is now under Imperial rule as a far-flung outpost of the Celestial

Empire.

* Aristasia-in-Telluria, as a quasi-colony or Protectorate, is now under the rule of the Celestial Empire. While the day-to-day running of the Protectorate is still carried out by its Tellurian members, they are under the ultimate rule of the Bridgehead High Command which issues guidelines and Directives to shape the Protectorate according to Imperial policy.

* The use of the Solar Imperial Standard has been granted to Aristasia-in-Telluria (formerly Aristasia-in-Telluria had adopted the Empress's Flag without authorisation). The Royal Novarian flag may also be used in some contexts. The flags of the other Aristasian nations continue to be "borrowed" as expressions of conceptual filiation to the nations and this use is not deprecated. But the granting of official use of an Aristasian Standard is a fundamental ritual act of recognition of Aristasia-in-Telluria by the Celestial Empire. Equally, the use and display of the flag is a continued ritual act, on the part of Aristasia-in-Telluria, of allegiance and submission to the Celestial Empire.

* The granting of honorary ranks in the Royal Novarian Aethyr Command has been permitted to Aristasia-in-Telluria. These ranks are of two kinds:

1. Virtual, or acting, ranks: these are granted to a persona who wishes to serve Aristasia.

2. Full ranks: these are granted only to an individual whose full primary allegiance, in all personae, is to the Motherland.

All ranks granted are virtual unless otherwise specified. The granting of a full rank requires a special Act of Allegiance. This Act may also be made outside the context of accepting military rank. Even full ranks remain honorary because they are granted by Commissioned Officers of the Royal Novarian Aethyr Command, and not directly by Royal Commission from Her Novarian Majesty. Nonetheless an Honorary Officer of Full Rank is in every respect a member of the Royal Novarian Vikhelic Services and thus also of the Imperial Vikhelic Forces.

* Members of the Protectorate are subjects of the Empress, and are granted the status of honorary intemorphs.

The Effects of the Operation on Aristasia-in-Telluria

While the foregoing section outlines the precise legal changes entailed in Operation Bridgehead, the consequent changes in Aristasia-in-Telluria have been wide-ranging, and, while often subtle, very profound.

In psychological terms, the shift of consciousness entailed in the transformation from being a Tellurian group constituting

itself unilaterally as a sort of "shadow Aristasia" to being a Protectorate of the distant Empire has been enormous.

One of the larger changes has been a decline of interest in Tellurian affairs. This was hastened by a Directive deprecating "involvement in foreign quarrels". Formerly, criticism of late-patriarchal Telluria had been a notable aspect of many Tellurian Aristasian writings and pronouncements. The essence of the Directive was to remind Aristasians-in-Telluria that they are now subjects of the Empire and are not expected to take part in the internal quarrels of foreign nations.

The effect of this is subtler than it may at first seem, because a) criticism of late-patriarchal Telluria remains necessary to help Aristasians-in-Telluria avoid importing its values and attitudes into Aristasia and b) Aristasia always *had* intended to stand aloof from Tellurian arguments.

Did Bridgehead and the directive, then, change anything? Indeed, they changed everything. Prior to Bridgehead many Aristasians-in-Telluria had spent much time debating issues relating to Tellurian social conservatism and decline. Aristasians-in-Telluria had a reputation (largely resulting from misunderstanding of their real standpoint) as "political animals" in the Tellurian arena. With Bridgehead, all this changed. One notable social critic discontinued her Elektra-column as a result of the Directive, commenting:

"We were like soldiers quartered far from home, getting involved in local fights. Suddenly we were part of the real War, under real commanders. It was time to put aside these distractions of idle warriors and place ourselves, body and soul, at the service of our Empress."

It was not simply that duty called one to discontinue these distractions. There was a strong sense that they no longer mattered; that their time had passed. Where once Aristasian critics would have argued strongly that this or that was "destroying the social fabric" of Telluria, after Bridgehead it was not so much that they had changed their opinion on that, but that they had changed the *valuation* of their opinion. "Is the social fabric of Telluria any affair of ours?" summed up the new feeling. The tendency of some Aristasians to *epater les indigènes* (shock the natives) for amusement, by saying things that transgressed, or showed disrespect for, late-Tellurian political taboos, was also largely curtailed on the grounds that Aristasian representatives should not say things that might even *appear* to constitute taking sides in alien internal conflicts.

Talk of War was not merely figurative. With Operation Bridgehead came waves of opposition against Aristasia-in-Telluria. Some of it was actual directed human opposition from everyone from Christian fundamentalists to sex-obsessed male-supremacists to left-wing feminists. In other cases there were attacks on Aristasian property and failures

of communications machinery - to a degree far greater than coincidence - when important Aristasian events were taking place. The first serious wave of attack came on Nativity 2005 (3325) when the first Virtual Deanic Service was held at the then Virtual Aristasian Chapel. Elektra connexions were lost, machines broke down, Vandalism was committed against Aristasian Virtual institutions. The storm of negative occurrences was too much for coincidence. The holding of a true Deanic Service was anathema to the Forces of Darkness. But the Service went ahead.

On the 24th of April 2006 (7th of Maia 2236) there was a concerted attack on the Blue Camellia Club by no fewer than seventy-three individuals bombarding it with obscenities, while simultaneous attacks were made on the White Rose Room and even on the disused Blondes' and Brunettes' Club. This was only the culmination of a mounting series of attacks.

This was not a question of human-directed attack, even when human agents were involved. Those agents were no more than puppets of forces they could not comprehend. The people who deliberately conspired to attack the Blue Camellia Club were no more conscious of the real reasons for their attacks than were the petty criminals who attacked Aristasian vehicles - in separate and materially unrelated incidents - at about the same time.

It was clear that while Bridgehead High Command had moved into territory controlled by Enemy forces, using Aristasia-in-Telluria as its ground-troops, the Enemy was also mobilsing against the Operation.

While Aristasians-in-Tellura had debated often about the shifting boundaries of "game" and "reality", there was a deepening sense that what had been called the "Aristasian Experiment" was no longer a game.

To quote another participant in these events: "From being Tellurian women playing at being Aristasians, we had become honorary intemorphs, accepted by the Empire, under the protection and command of the Royal Novarian Navy, embroiled in the eternal war between Light and darkness and proudly flying the Imperial Standard. We were no longer rebel Tellurians, but loyal daughters of the Empress. Our whole perspective had changed and nothing, for us, would ever be the same again."

If this could appear to make light of the pre-Bridgehead generations of Aristasians-in-Telluria, it should not be taken in that spirit. Nearly thirty years of Aristasian endeavour in Telluria had led up to this point, and if that seems a long time, one must attempt to see it from the standpoint of the Empire. Placing this degree of trust in a group of schizomorph femins was a huge step. They had to know that this was not some Outland fantasy or piece of foolishness. To gain such honour in so short a time is in fact a near-

unbelievable achievement. The hard work and dedication of the previous generations of Aristasians have earned us this great privilege.

Neither should it be retrospectively imagined that the "Bridgehead Spirit" did not exist before Operation Bridgehead. For example, in *Children of the Void* (1996) we find the following passage:

"I feel (Aristasian history) is *my history. I belong to no world and no nation but this one. If England - far less 'Europe' - went to war, I should feel no involvement. It would be a quarrel between two alien states. I am an Aristasian, and that is all I am."* (p. 87)

Operation Bridgehead has consolidated this feeling and placed the seal of Imperial filiation on all who have felt this over the years.

Rayati Raihiranya!

Created by: miss_serena. Last Modification: Friday 13 of March, 2009 08:48:08 EDT by miss_serena.

Powered by TikiWiki CMS/Groupware